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Dmitry Suhol
Examiner
Art Unit 3725
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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San Leandro, CA 94579

October 12, 2005

Dear Dmitry,

I received notice from Deborah Pollard , Legal Instruments Examiner, that the listing of claims 15-17 for Application No. 10608977 I sent in 09/23/05 failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.121. Having telephoned her, my understanding is that I must explicitly state my request that claims 1-14 be canceled in this application. Deborah stated, however, that rather than listing each of the canceled claims, followed by a status identifier, I could simply indicate that as a group they were no longer applicable. Accordingly, please note the following:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. The method of assembling and using a device for teaching the orthographic structure of written words and syllables comprising the steps of:

constructing a flipbook having a backing board with sets of pages bound to it, for instance being spiral bound to it, such that the indicia imprinted on the faces of individual pages, meaning the front of said pages as they are positioned to display their indicia in flipbook fashion, can either be displayed or rotated out of sight behind said backing board or covered by other pages, the bindings attaching said pages being along the top and left and right sides of said backing board, the bindings along the top of said backing board allowing pages thus attached to rotate vertically while the bindings along the left and right sides of said backing board allowing pages thus attached to rotate horizontally from the front of said backing board to behind it, also that the pages bound to the left and right sides of said backing board and those top-bound pages situated on the left and right sides of said backing board are aligned so that one can cover or supersede the other, for instance that a left top-bound page can be covered by a left side-bound page or a right side-bound page can be covered by a right top-bound page, the pages bound to said backing board being able to rotate about their bindings so that the indicia imprinted on their faces appears in a side by side readable relationship displaying a written word or syllable which can be altered by rotating other pages into place in flipbook fashion,

having a left receptacle and a right receptacle on the backing board allowing attachment rods to be affixed to said backing board for the purpose of displaying additional pages, said attachment rods having either a single page attached to them or a binding, for instance a spiral binding, allowing a plurality of pages to be bound to those attachment rods, the attachment rods having a binding enabling the indicia shown on the faces of individual pages to be displayed or vertically rotated behind other pages in flipbook fashion,

having a single page which is affixed to a vertical handle, which can be displayed by holding said handle behind the flipbook so that the indicium imprinted on the face of said single page appears above one of the other pages displayed on the flipbook,

having an index tab affixed to individual pages which are bound within sets of multiple pages such that the user can readily locate an individual page within such a set, imprinting the same indicia on the front and back of each index tab as is imprinted on the face of its respective page so that its page can be located either in front or behind the backing board. (New)

16. The structure set forth in claim 15 wherein indicia are imprinted on the pages of a flipbook and its related pieces, imprinting letter groupings which are initial consonant blends on the faces of left side-bound pages, imprinting letter groupings which are final consonant blends on the faces of right side-bound pages, imprinting letters and letter groupings which are initial consonants and initial consonant digraphs on the faces of left top-bound pages, imprinting letters and letter groupings which are final consonants and final consonant digraphs on the faces of right top-bound pages, imprinting letters and letter groupings on the faces of three sets of pages which are of graduated lengths in the position of center top-bound pages, imprinting letters which are single vowels on the faces of the shortest of these three sets, imprinting letter groupings which are *r*-controlled vowels on the faces of pages immediately behind these and of greater length, imprinting letter groupings which are vowel teams on the faces of pages immediately behind these and of the greatest length, imprinting letters and letter groupings which are prefixes on the faces of pages bound to an attachment rod which can be affixed to the left receptacle on the backing board, imprinting letters and letter groupings which are suffixes on the faces of pages bound to an attachment rod which can be affixed to the right receptacle on the backing board, having index tabs affixed to all of the pages which are within sets of multiple pages, imprinting letters and letter groupings on the front and back of index tabs which corresponds to their respective pages, imprinting the indicium representing "marvelous *e*" on the face of the page attached to an attachment rod which can be affixed to the right receptacle on the backing board, imprinting the indicium representing "not so marvelous *e*" on the face of the page attached to an attachment rod which can be affixed to the right receptacle on the backing board, imprinting the indicium representing a schwa on the face of the page attached to a vertically held handle. (New)

17. The structure set forth in claims 15 and 16 wherein a color-coding system is used to help obviate the orthographic elements in written words and syllables, imprinting the indicium representing a schwa in black, imprinting letters which are vowels in orange,

imprinting letters which are consonants in blue, but with the following exceptions – that silent letters are imprinted in white with a black outline, nearly silent letters are imprinted mostly in white with a fogging of their orange or blue coloring and outlined in black, those letters displayed on prefix and suffix pages are imprinted in green, the indicium representing “marvelous e” is imprinted in a white and orange starburst with a black outline, and the indicium representing “not so marvelous e” is imprinted in white with a black outline. (New)

Having spoken with you on this subject, I realize that you can no longer write a claim for small entity inventors. However, since I’ve written this application myself, I will be most appreciative for any assistance you provide through comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Barker". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Kenneth Barker